

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News; Medical Economics; Correspondence; Twenty-five Years Ago column; Department of Public Health; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

California Medical Association, Coronado, 1936. Frederick C. Warnshuis, M. D., 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco Secretary.

Nevada State Medical Association, Elko, Nevada, October 25-26, 1935. Horace J. Brown, P. O. Box 698, Reno, Secretary.

North Pacific Pediatric Society, Seattle, August 9-10, 1935. F. H. Douglass, M. D., 509 Olive Street, Seattle, Secretary.

Medical Broadcasts*

San Francisco County Medical Society.—The radio broadcast program for the San Francisco County Medical Society for the month of June is as follows: Tuesday, July 2—KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and KFRC, 1:15 p. m. Tuesday, July 9—KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and KFRC, 1:15 p. m. Tuesday, July 16—KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and KFRC, 1:15 p. m. Tuesday, July 23—KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and KFRC, 1:15 p. m. Tuesday, July 30—KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and KFRC, 1:15 p. m.

Los Angeles County Medical Association.—The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of June is as follows: Tuesday, July 2—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The New Frontier. Saturday, July 6—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The New Frontier. Saturday, July 6—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You. Tuesday, July 9—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The New Frontier. Saturday, July 13—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The New Frontier. Saturday, July 13—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You. Tuesday, July 16—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The New Frontier. Saturday, July 20—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The New Frontier. Saturday, July 20—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You. Tuesday, July 23—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The New Frontier. Saturday, July 27—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: The New Frontier. Saturday, July 27—KFAC, 10:15 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You. Tuesday, July 30—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: The New Frontier.

American Public Health Association and Meetings of Related Organizations, Milwaukee, October 7 to 12, 1935.—More than two thousand professional public health workers from every state in the Union, from Canada and from Mexico, will assemble in Milwaukee the week of October 7, at which time the following organizations will be in convention: American Association of School Physicians; International Association of Dairy and Milk Inspectors; Conference of State Sanitary Engineers; International Society of Medical Officers of Health; Association of Dairy, Food, and Drug Officials; Conference of Wisconsin Health Officers.

The scientific programs total four hundred presentations on subjects timely in the fields of public health, preventive medicine, and sanitation.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

University of California Hospital Holds Interesting Exhibit.—One of the most interesting exhibits at the recent exposition of Community Chest agencies in San Francisco was provided by the University of California Hospital. Two Drinker respirators, one for an adult and one for a child, and an oxygen tent, all in full operation, drew many thousands of visitors. A technician explained the workings of the three devices to the interested throngs, and was asked many questions regarding them.

Lifelike human dummies or "dolls" were provided for the respirators and the oxygen tent, all of which were so arranged and lighted that every detail could be witnessed by the spectators. The regular breathing of the two figures in the respirators occasioned many inquiries as to whether they were actually alive.

The smaller of the respirators has seen actual service at the hospital, but the larger one has not yet been used for a patient.

Ninety agencies of the Community Chest participated in the exposition, which was held under the sponsorship of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The out-patient department of the University Hospital is one of these agencies.

Tulane University Celebrated Hundredth Year on June 8 to 12.—In connection with its commencement exercises, and in commemoration of its achievement of a full century of medical and other higher education, Tulane University of Louisiana celebrated with an elaborate program. . . . Not only was credit given to the Tulane School of Medicine for its notable contributions to medical research and clinical application and practice, but also for its large contribution to the health and well-being of the people of the South, Southwest, and Central America, through the 6,500 and more doctors which Tulane has graduated during the century of its existence.

Located adjoining the great, state-operated Charity Hospital, in the port city of New Orleans; equipped with the most modern and expertly planned medical plant in the South; with a faculty of more than 150 recognized medical experts; and with unexcelled facilities for practical, clinical teaching, the Tulane School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Medicine today present a vivid contrast with the beginning one hundred years ago. . . .

Pioneering and leading in the study of tropical diseases, the members of the Tulane Medical Faculty and Alumni have made important contributions to the knowledge and control of diseases peculiar to tropical climates—such as malaria, yellow fever, cholera, beriberi, leprosy, amebic dysentery, etc. And its graduates have achieved distinction in all branches of medicine. To mention only one—Dr. Rudolph Matas, now Professor Emeritus of Surgery for his Alma Mater, has gained international renown for his contributions to the science and practice of vascular surgery. Doctor Matas holds a long string of titles and honors from medical schools and medical associations throughout the world.

The fact that New Orleans is, today, a healthy city of a half-million population, and is recognized as one of the world's outstanding medical centers, is due in great measure to the one hundred years of effort of the School of Medicine of Tulane University. From every state, and from almost every country of the world, men and women have come to Tulane for a medical education.

Pacific Coast Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology will be held in Los Angeles, November 6 to 9. Further information may be secured from Dr. T. Floyd Bell, Secretary, 400 Twenty-ninth Street, Oakland.

American Psychiatric Association.—The Committee on Publication feels that its principal objective should be the reeducation of the public by the gradual building up in the lay mind of a sensible and healthy conception of what psychiatry really is and what psychiatrists are trying to do.

To do this, they feel they must discourage the publication of popular, and sometimes lurid articles of an unscientific nature, and consistently observe a conservative and dignified policy of stressing only purely scientific matters.

Due credit was paid the press for its cooperation during the last meeting in helping to disseminate information concerning the standards and policies of the American Psychiatric Association.

It was pointed out that in the near future the Association would have to adopt uniform policies and procedures governing the public utterances of its members in a manner similar to other scientific bodies.

The committee now is organized to function on a full-time basis and plans to render services during the entire year.

Crime Control Is University Problem.—The control and regulation of crime should be developed by the University in the same manner that it has developed major procedures for the guidance of agriculture, education and public health, in the opinion of Dr. H. M. Adler, professor of psychiatry at the University of California, and nationally known criminologist.

The examination of chronic criminal types by university clinics equipped for that purpose and the education of peace officers by the university, should be established just as the university hospital and clinics have been established for the study of disease and its treatment and the education of doctors and dentists, Doctor Adler pointed out.

"We must reconcile ourselves to the fact that a large number of delinquents do not respond to the processes of juvenile courts, correctional schools, parole or probation," Doctor Adler said. "All existing agencies have failed in the handling of this problem. The peace officer of the future, therefore, must be trained in classifying the different types of delinquency and applying the proper treatment to each.

"We have already determined that the intelligence quotient is only indirectly related to delinquency, and that environment is not the determining factor that many believe it to be. There are more non-delinquent than delinquent feeble-minded, for instance. The average intelligence of penitentiary inmates is just as high as that on the outside. Likewise, all criminals do not come from supposedly unfavorable environments. That leaves the causes of delinquency a matter of guesswork.

"All of which impresses the necessity of determining delinquency trends and factors as early as possible, and this can be done best through the keenly calculating, scientific procedures developed by the university. We must accept a certain minimum as confirmed and chronic criminals whose conduct cannot be affected by any present type of treatment, and they constitute the greatest menace to society. They must be studied clinically and the factors causing their delinquency must be determined. From this study must be developed a new type of peace officer who will be able to determine mental trends and such puzzling factors as racial and environmental influences, and a type of treatment fitted to the needs of this particular criminal class. The university is best equipped to handle this problem."

The Association of Western Hospitals (formerly Western Hospital Association) announces that the 1936 convention will be held the week of April 20 in San Francisco.

In response to the large number of requests, it has been decided to have at least a two-day institute in connection with the convention. The details of convention arrangements will be announced later in the year.

Just What Are Nuisances?—Answered in the Statute. Once on a time Blackstone's "Commentaries on the English Law" was the foundation upon which budding young attorneys built. Among other things he wrote: "A nuisance signifies anything that worketh hurt, inconvenience or damage."

Health officials are interested only in those nuisances of a public nature which affect, or are considered by law to affect health, yet every health commissioner has learned that there seems to be no definite limit in the minds of the people between those nuisances that are actually detrimental to public health, those that are presumed to be so by popular tradition and their own private personal grievances, so he often encounters angry individuals who want things over which he has no jurisdictional remedies at once.

Nuisances offensive to public health are thus defined by Ohio law (G. C. 12646):

"Whoever erects, continues, uses or maintains a building, structure or place, for the exercise of a trade, employment or business, or for the keeping or feeding of an animal which by occasioning noxious exhalations or noisome or offensive smells, becomes injurious to the health, comfort or property of individuals or of the public, or causes or suffers offal, filth or noisome substances to be collected or remain in any place to the damage of others or of the public or unlawfully obstructs or impedes the passage of a navigable river, harbor or collection of water, or corrupts or renders unwholesome or impure, a watercourse, stream or water, or unlawfully diverts such watercourse from its natural course or state to the injury or prejudice of others, shall be fined not more than \$500."

Julius Rosenwald Fund.—The trustees of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, 4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, at the annual meeting held in Chicago recently appropriated \$284,000 for the work of the year beginning July 1, according to an announcement by Edwin R. Embree, president of the Fund. The appropriations were made for rural education, medical services, and negro welfare. . . .

It was announced that the Fund will continue its active interest in health insurance, pay clinics, public health, and other organized services which will make good medical care more available to people of small incomes. "Most striking among recent developments," said Dr. Michael M. Davis, director of the Fund's medical division, "is the growth of plans initiated by physicians, hospitals, or lay bodies, designed to improve the quality or reduce the costs of medical care, or to make it easier for the average family to pay for it. To the office of this Fund alone there has recently come knowledge of 344 plans and projects in all parts of the country. Among these are projects for budgeting hospital bills at a cost of from \$5 to \$10 a year, which have been set under way in over forty cities during the last two years, sponsored by the American Hospital Association and endorsed in principle by the American College of Surgeons and recently by the editor of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. The general public receives and pays for medical care. Physicians, dentists, nurses, hospitals, and clinics furnish it. The public and the professions have a common interest in keeping up the quality of medical care and in working together on plans whereby the average family may get treatment without ruining its finances or asking for medical charity."

During the past year Doctor Davis served on the consulting staff of President Roosevelt's Committee on Economic Security, and Dr. C. Rufus Rorem of

the Fund's staff served as consultant in group hospitalization to the American Hospital Association.

The chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Fund is Mr. Lessing J. Rosenwald; Mr. Edwin R. Embree is president. The other members of the Board of Trustees are: Dr. W. W. Alexander, Dr. John J. Coss, Robert M. Hutchins, Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Dr. Charles H. Judd, Leonard M. Rieser, William Rosenwald, Alfred K. Stern, and Frank Sulzberger.

New Inexpensive Treatment for Cancer — Caltech Laboratory Given Over to Study of Cheap Manufacture of Radon Gas.—Manufacture of radon gas for treatment of cancer and tumor, on a nonprofit basis, thus making this therapeutic agency available for persons of limited means, is to be undertaken at once under the direction of Dr. Clyde K. Emery, well known for his work here in radiology. Doctor Emery is associated with Dr. Seeley G. Mudd of the California Institute of Technology radiological laboratory, and also is in charge of radiation therapy at the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Los Angeles.

As director of the radium emanation, or radon plant, he will have in his charge 500 milligrams of radium. The radium, in solution, gives off a gas, radon. This, by a complicated system of purification and compression, is placed in small gold or glass tubes, known as "seeds."

These radon seeds have a life of but thirty-two days, after which they become inert. Radium itself will last hundreds of years. The gold tubes of radon are placed right in the growth of cancer or tumor and are left there permanently. The glass tubes, placed in platinum containers, are used as a substitute for radium itself and are recoverable.

Hitherto the cost of cancer treatment by radium has been high because only a few plants are established in the country, and the nearest of these are in San Francisco and Seattle. At the cancer clinic, associated with the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Los Angeles, according to Doctor Emery, it may be possible on the nonprofit basis of the new set-up to provide the radon seeds at a price low enough to include patients hitherto barred because of the expense.

It is hoped, states Doctor Emery, to supply doctors competent to use the treatment not only in Southern California, but in the adjacent territory of Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada, thus considerably enlarging the area in which radiation therapy will be available.—*Pasadena Star-News*, June 13, 1935.

CORRESPONDENCE

Regarding contention of Doctor Pomeroy, Health Officer of Los Angeles County, concerning who had right to legally inoculate; with opinion of State Attorney-General thereon.

To the Editor: We enclose herewith copy of Opinion No. 10003, rendered us June 17, 1935, which we thought might be of interest to readers of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

Very truly yours,
C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Medical
Examiners, State of California.

San Francisco, Calif.,
June 19, 1935.

Yours of April 29, re preventive medicine.

J. L. Pomeroy, M. D.,
Los Angeles County Health Officer,
Hall of Justice,
Los Angeles, California.
Dear Doctor:

On receipt of your letter of April 29 we had some correspondence on your interpretation of the Medical Practice Act. Thereafter we submitted your letter to the Attorney-General of this State.

Under date of June 17, 1935, we received Attorney-General's Opinion No. 10003. Therein he does not agree with your suggestion that the provisions of the Medical Practice Act are limited strictly to the sick, afflicted, injured, etc. He refers to Section 8 of the Medical Practice Act, which provides for the issuance of a certificate authorizing the holder thereof to use drugs or what are known as medicinal preparations in or upon human beings. He relates:

"You will note that the authorization does not relate to sick or afflicted persons, but merely to human beings. Consequently, a well human being would come within this definition just as certainly as would a sick one. . . . Certainly the act of immunizing a person involves the prescribing for a physical or mental condition. . . . You are further advised that it is unnecessary for a physician and surgeon to be granted special dispensation by county health officers in order to legally inoculate against communicable diseases."

A copy of the opinion from which the above is quoted may be obtained from the office of the Attorney-General.

Because Allen F. Gillihan, M. D., Health Officer, San Luis Obispo, was exercised over your interpretation of the Medical Practice Act, as related in yours of April 29, we have sent to Doctor Gillihan a copy of this letter that he may be advised as to the opinion of the Attorney-General.

Very truly yours,
C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Medical
Examiners, State of California.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Legal Department
San Francisco,
June 17, 1935.

Charles B. Pinkham, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Board of Medical Examiners,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Sir:

In your communication of the 6th ultimo you enclose a copy of a letter written you by J. L. Pomeroy, M. D., Health Officer of Los Angeles County, in which the letter suggests that a physician and surgeon, as such, has no right to vaccinate or immunize against disease.

You ask whether Doctor Pomeroy's interpretation is correct and whether physicians and surgeons duly licensed under the laws of this State must be granted special dispensation by county health officers in order legally to inoculate against communicable diseases.

In reply thereto permit me to state that it is the opinion of this office that there is no limitation of a physician and surgeon's license.

No person has an affirmative right to advise members of the public concerning the care or treatment of a well or sick person. The granting of a license, it has been held, is not a boon or privilege for the express benefit of the person receiving it, but is, rather, an evidence of the fact that the person to whom a license is given has studied the subject of medicine and surgery to such an extent as would indicate that he would do nothing detrimental to the health and well-being of the people.

Section 8 of the State Medical Practice Act provides for the issuance of "a certificate authorizing the holder thereof to use drugs or what are known as medical preparations in or upon human beings." Without such authorization a person would not have the right to use drugs or what are known as medical preparations in or upon human beings. You will note that the authorization does not relate to sick or afflicted persons, but to human beings. Consequently, a well human being would come within this definition, just as certainly as would a sick one.

Section 17 of the State Medical Practice Act prohibits an unlicensed person from prescribing for any mental or physical condition of any person. Certainly, the act of immunizing a person involves the prescribing for a physical or mental condition.

It has always been recognized in this State that the severing or penetration of any of the tissues of human